

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AF-10 /100 W  
-----067963 290657Z /10

R 281450Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5603  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0894

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, XH, LY  
SUBJECT: QADHAFI'S EAST EUROPEAN TOUR

1. AS QADHAFI NEARS THE END OF HIS FIVE NATION TOUR OF  
EASTERN EUROPE WE WOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING VERY PRELIMINARY  
OBSERVATIONS.

2. IT APPEARS TO BE THE LONGEST AND CERTAINLY MOST EXTENSIVE  
FOREIGN TRAVEL UNDERTAKEN BY QADHAFI SINCE HE CAME TO POWER.  
IT SUGGESTS HE FEELS SECURE AT HOME. IT ALSO REFLECTS HIS  
DISENCHANTMENT WITH AND SENSE OF REJECTION BY THE WEST.  
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3. THE TRIP MARKS A GREAT STEP FORWARD IN THE PROCESS OF  
ALIGNING LIBYA WITH THE SOCIALIST EAST, A PROCESS WHICH HAS  
BEEN MOVING AHEAD OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS. IN QADHAFI'S  
OWN WORDS AS QUOTED IN JANA THE PUROOSE OF THE TRIP  
IS TO "SOLIDIFY RELATIONS" WITH THE SOCIALIST BLOC. IT  
GIVES SUBSTANCE TO HIS ASSERTION TO NY TIMES WRITER FLORA

LEWIS (IN INTERVIEW JUNE 16) THAT HE CONSIDERED MARXISM CLOSER TO ISLAM THAN EITHER CHRISTIANITY OR JUDAISM.

4. THE PURPOSES OF THE TRIP ARE MORE POLITICAL THAN ECONOMIC. ASIDE FROM MANPOWER (AND WEAPONS) LIBYA'S ECONOMIC TIES WITH EASTERN EUROPE ARE MINIMAL AND THEIR EXPANSION WILL BE DIFFICULT. EVEN THE ABSORPTION OF GREATER AMOUNTS OF EAST EUROPEAN MANPOWER (NOW AROUND 40-50,000) WILL POSE PROBLEMS.

5. FROM THE TENOR OF THE COMMUNIQUEES AND OUR OWN READING OF QADHAFI WE ASSUME AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST ARE HIGH ON THE COLONEL'S LIST. HE SEEKS AND IS UNDOUBTEDLY RECEIVING SUPPORT FOR HIS CURRENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS NEW WAVE OF EUROPEAN/AMERICAN COLONIALISM DESCENDING ON AFRICA. EAST EUROPEAN SUPPORT FOR HIS MIDDLE EAST POLICIES SEEMS MORE CIRCUMSPECT AND FALLS SHORT OF ENDORSEMENT OF LIBYAN REJECTIONISM.

6. NONE OF THE FOREGOING IS INTENDED TO SUGGEST THAT ALL WILL BE HARMONIOUS BETWEEN LIBYA AND ITS SOCIALIST BROTHERS IN THE FUTURE. THERE ARE STICKING POINTS IN AFRICA SUCH AS THE ERITREAN QUESTION AND QADHAFI'S EXTREME STAND ON MIDDLE EAST WHICH WILL NOT FIND FULL SUPPORT. NEVERTHELESS, AT LEAST ON AFRICA THERE IS CERTAINLY ENOUGH IN COMMON TO CARRY THE NEW FRIENDS FORWARD FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. CONFIDENTIAL

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7. IDEOLOGY MAY BE ANOTHER EVENTUAL PROBLEM. DESPITE QADHAFI'S SALUTES TO MARXISM, HIS OWN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC VIEWS AS EXPRESSED IN THE GREEN BOOKS ARE VERY BASIC, EVEN PRIMITIVE. HE WILL REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE EVOLUTION TO BECOME A REAL MARXIST, A FACT WHICH SEEMS APPARENT TO SOME OF OUR FRANKER EAST EUROPEAN AND SOVIET COLLEAGUES HERE.

8. WHAT THESE DEVELOPMENTS MEAN FOR QADHAFI INTERNALLY REMAINS TO BE SEEN. CERTAINLY LIBYANS ARE BASICALLY CONSERVATIVE. HIGH LIBYAN OFFICIALS INCLUDING FONSEC TURAYKI ARE FOND OF TELLING THIS WRITER AND OTHER COLLEAGUES THAT LIBYA UNDER COL. QADHAFI IS FUNDAMENTALLY ANTI-COMMUNIST AND OPPOSES SPREAD OF COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN AFRICA. HOW SUCH VIEWS WILL BE RECONCILED WITH THE COLONEL'S CURRENT PUBLIC STAND AND WHAT TENSIONS MIGHT ARISE INTERNALLY WILL BEAR CLOSE WATCHING IN THE FUTURE. CARLE

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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